

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1310

By Finney L

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the soldiers of the 194th Engineer Company, Tennessee Army National Guard, for their meritorious service in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, many fine and honorable traditions have arisen from the deep wellspring of honor and bravery possessed by Tennesseans, but there is no finer tradition than that which gave Tennessee its nickname; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the Volunteer State have, throughout the years, willingly forsaken the comforts and securities of inaction by taking up arms against the enemies of this great Nation, risking their lives and leaving their loved ones behind to honorably safeguard the freedoms and liberties guaranteed to all citizens of these United States and vanquishing those who threaten our way of life; and

WHEREAS, established in 1887 by an act of the 45th General Assembly, the Tennessee National Guard is a dedicated collection of the finest men and women this State has to offer. Always vigilant and prepared for duty, the Tennessee National Guard has proven time and again its ability to protect fellow Tennesseans and Americans and those around the world in need of aid; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Tennessee National Guard selflessly serve with courage and gallantry and deserve to be recognized for heroism in the line of duty and model citizenship in our American society; and

WHEREAS, the soldiers of the 194th Engineer Company, Tennessee Army National Guard, stationed in Jackson, Tennessee, under the command of Brigadier General Robert A. Harris, are especially deserving of our deepest admiration and thanks for their valiant service during Operation Iraqi Freedom; and

WHEREAS, this highly skilled unit deployed overseas from April 2009 through April 2010, leaving their families, friends, and loved ones behind for one year; and

WHEREAS, the citizen-soldiers of the 194th Engineer Company, during their deployment, conducted more than 250 clearance patrols covering more than 20,700 kilometers; conducted more than fifty bridge inspections, ten bridge repairs, two bridge replacements, and three bridge removals; partnered with the Iraqi Engineer School to facilitate more competent Iraqi Army Engineers, resulting in the doubling of the number of students; provided more than 2,000 geospatial products throughout the Iraqi Joint Operations Area; contracted for and established Iraqi Facility Engineer Teams to assist with facility engineering and the transfer of facilities; provided support to Facilities Engineer Teams and Facilities Engineer Detachment in the management of more than 140 Commander's Emergency Response Program projects; expanded HUBs in support of all major land owners; provided horizontal and vertical engineer support to all United States divisions; consolidated more than \$40 million in excess construction material; and shipped 383 pieces of rolling stock and more than 160 containers from Iraq to other military areas; and

WHEREAS, no strangers to awards and accolades, the soldiers of the 194th Engineer Company were awarded sixteen Bronze Stars, sixty-four Meritorious Service Medals, fifty-seven Army Commendation Medals, and two Army Achievement Medals; and

WHEREAS, the members of the 194th Engineer Company performed their duties with honor, distinction, and profound regard for the importance of their role in Operation Iraqi Freedom; their courageous service stands as an enduring example of all the characteristics that have ensured the continued freedom of our nation and the preservation of its ideals over the course of our history; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CONCURRING, that we honor and commend the members of the 194th Engineering Company, Tennessee Army National Guard, for their valiant service to our State and Nation while deployed as a part of Operation Iraqi Freedom, extending to them our sincerest gratitude for preserving our freedom.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.